

Use caution on roads during winter

Tune in to AFN radio for latest closure info

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Public affairs

While last winter in Central Germany was relatively mild, weather forecasters predict a colder and snowier season this year.

In the event of severe winter storms, Team Rhein-Main members should be aware that AFN-Frankfurt airs weather announcements concerning delays, closures, and road conditions every 15 minutes, Monday through Friday from 5 – 9 a.m. during the local morning show, and again from 3 – 6 p.m. on the evening program.

Local commanders will make the determination on delays and closures within their military communities based on the road con-

ditions. AFN policy dictates that the use of “amber” and “green” to describe these conditions are usually avoided because the average listener doesn’t know what these codes mean. Instead, the actual weather phenomenon will be explained, i.e. icy, snow-covered, foggy. However, the code word “red” will be used, as it prescribes certain restrictions on military vehicles.

In addition, many military installations will post the current road condition status at their main gates, so the following is an explanation of the terms for motorists.

Green: Ideal road, visibility and temperature conditions exist. Drivers will observe normal precautions and speed limits.

Amber: Roads are wet, have packed

or slush snow not to exceed four inches; patch, black or slush ice; and maximum visibility between 20-50 meters. Temperature is between 30-35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Red: Roads have drifting snow exceeding four inches or sheet ice, maximum visibility is less than 20 meters and temperature is less than 30 degrees.

To be prepared for winter driving conditions, the safety office recommends that motorists “winterize” their vehicles by ensuring all fluids are at the appropriate levels, tire treads are in good condition and/or snow tires are used when appropriate, anti-freeze is full, and the car battery is fully charged. In addition, it is advisable to store blankets, snacks and water in the trunk (and reflective gear or flashlights) in the event your vehicle becomes stranded in the snow.